



Environmental Laboratory Advisory Committee (ELAC) Final Meeting Minutes: November 10, 2005

Editorial Note: Information communicated in these minutes is not to be used as official New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection policy or as an official Department notification. Contact NJDEP officials directly for official information regarding matters communicated in these minutes.

Administrative Business

Chair Harvey Klein called the meeting to order at 9:40 AM. Tom Cady (HC-V) made a motion to accept the October meeting minutes and the minutes were approved.

Subcommittee Reports

Laboratory Certification Program: Dr. Mike Miller (NJDEP-OQA) stated that the draft EPA letter addressing discontinuing the use of Freon has been updated because EPA has extended the use of Freon beyond December 2005. Dr. Miller stated that New Jersey will remove Freon methods in part III of FY07. The table of alternate procedures under consideration by the various programs to be used when the use of Freon methods have been halted has not changed. A copy of the new draft letter has been sent to the ELAC email roster requesting any comments be forwarded to Dr. Miller.

Terrie McIntyre (Merck) asked if her lab should use the updated SW846 method 8260C instead of 8260B. Dr. Mike Miller (NJDEP-OQA) said labs should switch to the updated method.

PT program: Rachel Werner (NJDEP-OQA) stated that DW PT orders went out last week. ELCP labs are not allowed to petition to use an alternate vendor. The makeup WP PT study has a ship date of December 5, 2005.

NELAC Update: Dr. Mike Miller (NJDEP-OQA) informed the committee that there is a January meeting in Chicago and one topic would be the oversight of PT providers. A2LA will be taking over for NIST possibly by August 2006. A2LA will be recognized as a PTOB just as NIST was and NELAC can recognize A2LA instead of NIST. Dr. Miller stated that A2LA will monitor every PT issue and that the PT provider will be charged a fee for this service. Currently the DEP is performing PT oversight because NIST has not been performing that function.

INELA Update: No report

NJQL's: Stu Nagourney (NJDEP-OQA) stated that the NJQL database is in its final testing phase and is performing well. He expects the database to be able to accept data in early 2006. The draft NJQL rule language states that labs must meet NJQLs to be able to submit compliance data. The NJQL is 5 X MDL. The draft rule language states that the MDL must be 1/5 NJQL. This section is controversial in part because it could exclude many labs.

In the NJQL rulemaking each item of data required for submission is listed. Harvey Klein(GSL) suggested that a language change that states that all required data must be submitted will reduce the need for changes in the future. Stu Nagourney stated that the rule has not been submitted for legal review and that changes will be made to the current language.

Mr. Nagourney states that the department expects 250 labs to submit data. Announcements will be made to inform all labs that are required to submit. Training sessions and contact numbers will be provided to laboratories.

Tom Cady (HC-V) asked if NJQL's will replace PQL's and asked if the department recognized that it is not possible for commercial labs to meet some of the posted PQL's. Stu Nagourney stated that it is recognized that some of the PQL's especially for aquatic toxicity are research lab numbers. Tom Cady asked about the implementation of the new reporting limit requirements under the new Ground Water Rule. Dave Speis (Accutest) has requested that Debbie Hammond attend the next meeting to review some of this information with the ELAC committee.

Bioassay: No report

Sludge (Biosolids): No report

Communications and OQA Website: Rachel Werner (NJDEP-OQA) stated that the website has been updated with information about PT studies.

Old Business

Bureau of Safe Drinking Water / PWTa: Linda Bonnette (NJDEP-BSDW) informed the committee that the BSDW roundtable was well attended on October 28th, 2005. An information notice has been sent to water systems detailing the resampling requirements necessary to comply with the new Arsenic rule in which EPA method 200.7 cannot be used for testing arsenic in drinking water samples after January 23, 2006. Systems that are on a tri-annual testing rotation need to check that they will be in compliance. According to Ms. Bonnette labs will receive a similar letter in approximately two weeks. Ms. Bonnette states that under New Jersey regulations any arsenic result >5 ppb would require resampling at all points of entry. The BSDW will review previous data and systems may be asked to sample ahead of required retesting. Another DW roundtable is scheduled for January 20,2006 in the public hearing room. Ms. Bonnette also announced that Radiation labs testing gross alpha are required to use the rapid gross alpha method.

Site Remediation: The discussion of the 2005 Field Manual Guidance document has been requested for the next meeting. One topic is the preferred preservation method for VOAs. Harvey Klein (GSL) will attempt to have a representative from Site Remediation attend the next meeting.

New Business

Lab Certification Fee Proposal: No discussion

2005 Field Sampling Manual: Requested speaker for next meeting

ELAC Secretary 2006-2007 Nominations: The need for nominations for the ELAC secretary position was discussed but no individuals were nominated at this meeting.

There were not any other new issues. The meeting was adjourned.

The next meeting is scheduled for 09:30 AM on December 8, 2005 – 4th Floor Conference Room.

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